

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Committee – Meeting of May 5, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Oakes Plimpton, Erna Greene, Karin Turer, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

*The minutes from the April meeting were adopted with one correction.

Discussion of the substitute motion for Town Meeting warrant article 28, proposed by Scott. The Selectmen recommended no action on the version of the article that proposed increasing the legal length of a dog leash used in Arlington to 20 feet. Scott's substitute limits leash length to 6 feet on the bikeway and other appropriate locations.

Discussion of the Minuteman Bikeway's induction into the national Rail-Trail Hall of Fame in June 2008 (by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy). The induction is to take place next month (June), and we don't have time to plan a celebration before then. Rails-to-Trails will handle most of the other publicity details. They can also supply signs to be posted along the bikeway announcing the honor. Ron suggested that the celebration be trail-wide rather than just in Arlington. Joey has notified the Selectmen and the other town committees. We briefly discussed if and where the signs should be installed. We then deferred discussion of this topic to the multi-town bikeway committee meeting being planned for next month in Lexington.

UPDATES on ongoing projects: Minuteman Bikeway banners in Arlington Center; Bicycle Education classes in Arlington (June 18 and 21, see link below); Arlington Rotary Club presentation; and any other projects. Joey told us that the structures holding the banners have been repaired by the DPW and painted by the sign vendors. There will be one week's notice before the banners are installed. Jack also told us that the design of the banners has been changed to our specifications.

Jack will teach bike education classes on June 18 and June 21 in Arlington. Jack also told us about his presentation at the Arlington Rotary Club. He found the Rotarians to be interested in local bicycling topics. His presentation covered the BIKE-Arlington Tour, Mass. Ave. redesign, and plowing of the bicycle path last winter.

Final discussion on planning this year's BIKE-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday morning, May 18. The Tour will start at 9:30, but committee members should be there early to help sign in participants. Jack reported that we are expecting the usual police escort, and he requested that the police be on bikes if

possible. Some of us will make one more transit of the route to make sure that there are no unforeseen obstacles. Christopher and Stephan will supply refreshments after the ride.

Follow-up discussion on forming a Friends of the Bikeway Committee in Arlington (or possibly a tri-town Friends group). Everyone on the committee is in favor of establishing a separate Friends of the Path group. The other towns on the path already have Friends committees. It was suggested that it would be more efficient to have one Friends committee for the entire path. We all liked that idea but thought it might be hard to pull off.

Karin asked how we felt about publicizing the farmer's markets in the three bikeway towns, all of which are located near the path. This led to a discussion of improving bicycle parking for the Arlington Farmer's Market. Oakes informed us that he would be interested in participating in the Bikeway Friends committee.

Review upcoming events, including future ABAC meeting dates. Jack reminded us that this year we will meet in August and take July off rather than the schedule we have followed in the past.

Open forum/general discussion. Oakes discussed issues of safety on the bike path such as people walking on the wrong side and bicyclists riding too fast. Oakes would like to see more signage defining the rules that do exist. Jack outlined our philosophy about signs on the path. We are reluctant to clutter the path with signs reminding people on the path to use common sense. Karen suggested that a Friends committee could patrol the path. Some of us responded that we have no powers of enforcement or training in conflict resolution. We discussed lack of courtesy on the path by some users. Oakes thought that the current bikeway guidelines are timidly worded and reiterated his desire to have more signs stating the rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.